

Claims

We Claim:

1. An improved apparatus for extraction of aromatic compounds from gasoline using a glycol solvent based extraction process, the apparatus comprising at least one stripper column including a flash drum at a top thereof, and continuous multitiered upper and bottom tray portions, the upper tray portion having a top tray which is isolated from the flash drum and from other tiers of the upper tray portion therebelow, and at least an extractor column upstream of the stripper column, the improvement comprising:

means for creating a barrier between the multitiered upper and bottom tray portions of the stripper column to eliminate a direct flow path therebetween;

means for diverting a flash vapor stream from the flash drum of the stripper column back to a column extractor upstream of the stripper column;

means for diverting a lean solvent stream exiting the bottom portion of the stripper column to a heat exchange unit to cool the solvent stream by transferring heat therefrom to a bottom stream from the top multitiered upper portion and diverting the bottom stream to an upper area of the bottom portion; and

means for diverting the cooled lean solvent stream to a reboiler of a hydrocarbon stripper and using the hydrocarbon stripper to remove non-aromatics from a water stream used to separate solvent from the extracted aromatic compounds.